

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/738,915
Reply to Office Action dated July 11, 2005

Remarks:

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated July 11, 2005. In the Action, a further Restriction Requirement was placed upon the application. A further Restriction was required between Invention I, claims 1-5, drawn to a method of harvesting a crop by stripping the leaves and harvesting the stems at a different time; and Invention II, claims 13-18, drawn to a method of harvesting a crop by harvesting a first portion of a crop and harvesting a second portion of a crop separately with the additional step of mixing a first amount of the first portion with a second amount of the second portion to achieve a desired nutritional content. The Action stated that the Inventions were unrelated and that Restriction for examination purposes was indicated as proper.

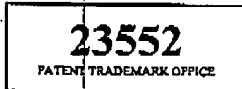
Moreover, the Action also indicated that an election of Species was required if Applicants choose Group I. The Action indicated that claims 1 and 2 were generic but that there were three Species for Invention I, namely:

Species I, claim 3, wherein the crop is alfalfa;
Species II, claim 4, wherein the crop is mint; and
Species III, claim 5, wherein the crop is barley.

Applicants elect Invention I, claims 1-5, drawn to a method of harvesting a crop by stripping leaves and harvesting the stems at a different time with traverse. Moreover, Applicants elect Species I, claim 3, wherein the crop is alfalfa, with traverse. Applicants assert that the method applies to various crops and that the Inventions are all related. Applicants assert that the further Restriction Requirement is unnecessary and should be withdrawn.

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A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.




Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated:

8/11/05

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GAS/km